

Message Text

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DEPT PASS CHIEF OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GENERAL
MORRIS

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TAGS: TGEN, TECH, UR,US
SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: WATER RESOURCES
VISIT OF US POLYMER CONCRETE DELEGATION (01.12)

1. A DELEGATION OF US POLYMER CONCRETE SPECIALISTS
RECENTLY COMPLETED VISIT TO THE USSR UNDER THE WATER
RESOURCES WORKING GROUP OF THE US-USSR S&T
AGREEMENT. THE DELEGATION REPORTED USEFUL PRELIMINARY
DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET SPECIALISTS IN MOSCOW, KIEV
AND BRATSK. US DELEGATION OBSERVED SAMPLES OF SOVIET
MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, AND TEST SITES; HOWEVER, DELEGATION
WAS NOT PERMITTED TO VISIT POLYMER CONCRETE FABRICATION
PLANT OR TO OBSERVE A SITE WHERE POLYMER CONCRETE
WAS ACTUALLY IN THE PROCESS OF BEING USED.

2. THE SPECIALISTS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES:

1) CONTINUE WORK ON AN ENGLISH-RUSSIAN GLOSSARY OF TECH-
NICAL TERMINOLOGY OF ABOUT 500 WORDS,
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2) EXCHANGE MATERIALS USED IN PRODUCTION OF POLYMER
CONCRETE,

3) SOVIET WILL PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POLYMER CONCRETE, TO BE HELD IN AUSTIN TEXAS IN
OCTOBER 1978, AND

4) MADE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXCHANGE OF LONG TERM SPECIALISTS IN THE AREA OF POLYMER CONCRETE IN 1979.

3. ALTHOUGH US SPECIALISTS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT, THEY COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE DISORGANIZED. THE SOVIETS NEVER PRESENTED AN ITINERARY FOR THE TRIP AND THERE WERE NUMEROUS LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. VISIT BEGAN ON SOUR NOTE WHEN SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO HOUSE US DELEGATION IN SEEDY "HOTEL TOURIST". US DELEGATION HAD STAYED IN SAME HOTEL DURING VISIT TO USSR IN 1977 AND WITH THAT EXPERIENCE IN MIND US DELEGATION THREATENED TO RETURN HOME FORTHWITH IF SOVIETS COULD NOT COME UP WITH BETTER ACCOMMODATIONS -- WHICH THE SOVIETS EVENTUALLY WERE ABLE TO DO. ON A MORE SUBSTANTIVE LEVEL, THE SOVIETS REFUSED TO TAKE US DELEGATION TO POLYMER CONCRETE PRODUCTION PLANTS AND IN MINSK AND IN SVETLOGORSK, WHICH DELEGATION HAD ASKED TO VISIT.

4. US DELEGATION NOTED THAT THE QUALITY OF SOVIET CONCRETE WORK THEY OBSERVED WAS EXCEEDINGLY LOW. NEVERTHELESS, US SPECIALISTS BELIEVE SOVIETS HAVE DEVELOPED POLYMER CONCRETE MATERIALS AND SPECIAL MATERIAL FOR REPAIR OF ASBESTOS, WHICH ARE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE IN THE US. US DELEGATION MEMBERS BELIEVE THERE MAY BE A BASIS FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IF US CAN GAIN ACCESS TO POLYMER CONCRETE PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND CAN OBTAIN SAMPLES OF SOVIET POLYMER CONCRETE FOR TESTS IN THE US. HOWEVER, SOVIETS HINTED TO US DELEGATION MEMBERS THAT SOVIET POLYMER CONCRETE MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN LICENSING AND SOVIETS ARE OFTEN RELUCTANT TO PERMIT MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR BILATERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WHEN THEY BELIEVE THAT SOVIET TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED MAY HAVE A CHANCE OF LICENSING ABROAD.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM THE REMARKS OF THIS DELEGATION, AND FROM THE COMMENTS OF OTHER US DELEGATIONS WHICH HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SOVIET POLYMER CONCRETE, THAT THE SOVIETS GENUINELY HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER IN THIS AREA. THE US SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THIS SOVIET TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, IF THE SOVIETS DO NOT PERMIT MEANINGFUL ACCESS, THE US SHOULD ENSURE THAT ANY SOVIET SPECIALISTS WHO VISIT THE US UNDER THIS PROJECT

RECEIVE THE SAME LEVEL OF ACCESS TO US TECHNOLOGY. IN
ADDITION, CONTINUING ACCESS PROBLEMS MAY CALL INTO
QUESTION THE VALUE OF FURTHER SUCH "FAMILIARIZATION
TOURS" UNDER THIS PROJECT. END COMMENT. MATLOCK

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